

selected from the group consisting of glycerol and glyceraldehyde at a concentration of 20-500 mM;

(b) selecting a Lactobacillus reuteri strain which produces β -hydroxypropionaldehyde under anaerobic conditions and in the presence of glycerol or glyceraldehyde;

(c) applying to the surface of the food item a solution containing about 10^9 cells per gram of food item of said Lactobacillus reuteri strain; and

(d) placing the food item under conditions wherein said cells are under anaerobic conditions and said strain of Lactobacillus reuteri produces β -hydroxypropionaldehyde as a detectable end-product.

E6

Please replace claim 42 with new claim 47 to change "treating" to --decreasing the number of-- as follows:

47. A method of decreasing the number of non-Lactobacillus reuteri bacteria so that the number of said non-Lactobacillus reuteri bacteria present after treatment is less, by a multi-log factor, than the number of bacteria in an untreated control, comprising:

(a) adding a precursor substance, said precursor substance selected from the group consisting of glycerol and glyceraldehyde at a concentration of 20-500 mM;

(b) selecting a bacterial strain which produces β -hydroxypropionaldehyde as a detectable end-product under anaerobic conditions and in the presence of glycerol or glyceraldehyde;

(c) adding cells of said Lactobacillus reuteri strain, the number of added cells of